have licence to operate basic and cellular services in Delhi and Mumbai because Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), another Government Public Sector Undertaking has been providing services in these areas since long.

(c) and (d) BSNL has launched a scheme to provide handsets to the customers without any upfront cost. Customer pays only premium for the insurance. Although the scheme has been well received, the actual growth of telephones would depend on several other factors as well such as economic conditions, literacy rate, per capita income etc.

BSNL's cellular services in Jharkhand

†3036. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular services of BSNL are not satisfactory in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the frequency of BSNL is very low and its roaming system remains out of order;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures being taken by Government to provide comparatively more reliable services to the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Cellular services of BSNL in Jharkhand are satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The frequency (bandwidth) of BSNL cellular services is adequate and roaming facility is working satisfactorily.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL and in the event of failures, efforts are made for the earliest possible restoration of service.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.